

Attorney Docket No. 249558US2 DIV
Inventor: Atsuhiko SATO et al
Preliminary Amendment filed: March 15, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

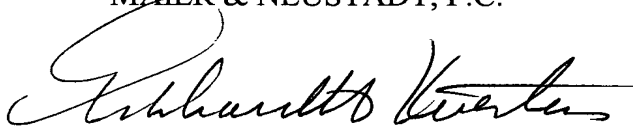
Favorable consideration of this divisional patent application in light of the foregoing Amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12 are presently active, Claims 1-8 and 13 canceled by the present preliminary amendment.

Accordingly, examination on the merits is in order, and an early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Phone (703) 413-3000

Fax (703) 413-2220

EHK:mlh

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\249558US-PREAMT.DOC